

Date: April 9, 1999

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION

Question: “What are the requirements for medical personnel at camps?”

Requester: Donna Utter, RN
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

Requested: February 19, 1999

Request For Additional Information: None

Answer:

1. The Washington State Nursing Commission can only address your question as it applies to licensed nurses practicing within Washington State.
2. For a nurse licensed in the State of Washington the guides to practice are the laws of the State of Washington including the Nurse Practice Act. These apply to a nurse practicing in a camp setting as they do to a nurse practicing in any other setting. A copy of our The Law Relating To Nursing Care is enclosed for your reference.
3. The specific questions you asked about camp operations are beyond the purview of our Commission. However, we would refer you to organizations like the ones you mentioned, 4H, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and church camping groups, for their medical policies and guidelines for camp operations. There are also several organizations that represent national camp collectives; they are actually trade organizations for camps. They certify camps and provide technical assistance. They certainly would have prototypes of medical policies and guidelines. American Camping Association, 5000 State Rd. 67N, Martinville, IN 46151-7902, (765) 342 8456; Christian Camping International/USA. P.O.Box 62189, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80962-2189, (719) 260 9400

Finally, insurance companies offering coverage for camps would have standards of practice camps would have to meet.

References: